

### **Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A frame element for a monopolar stack, comprising:  
~~a plurality of recesses for receiving ribs of plate elements arranged to form a stack, and/or~~  
a plurality of perforations for passing therethrough ribs of plate elements which are arranged to form a stack,  
wherein the frame element is provided at one side with a structure that is electrically conductive in portions, wherein the structure includes conductor sections, each said conductor section extending between at least two perforations such that individual ones of the conductor sections have no contact with any other said conductor section, thereby providing a monopolar wiring of the ribs of the plate elements received by the perforations.
2. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 1, comprising perforations for passing therethrough ribs of the plate elements arranged to form a stack, wherein the frame element is provided at one side with a structure which is electrically conductive in portions and which supports a monopolar wiring of the plate elements arranged to form the stack.
3. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, wherein the structure which is electrically conductive in portions comprises a regular pattern.

4. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising:  
a printed circuit board on which the structure is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.
5. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 1, comprising:  
mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.
6. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 1, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
7. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:  
arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;  
pre-tensioning the plate elements;  
laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 1 on the stack so that ~~the recesses and/or~~ the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate elements;  
offsetting the pretension.
8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein prior to the offsetting of the pretension the ribs of the plate elements are soldered with the frame elements.
9. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:  
a printed circuit board on which the structure is formed that is electrically conductive in portions.

10. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising:  
    mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.
11. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising:  
    mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.
12. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising:  
    mounting means for two end plates which complete the stack of plate elements at both sides.
13. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 2, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
14. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 3, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
15. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 4, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
16. (previously presented) A frame element according to claim 5, comprising at least one channel for fluid conduction along a stack axis of the monopolar stack.
17. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;  
pre-tensioning the plate elements;  
laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 2 on the stack so that the  
recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate  
elements;  
offsetting the pretension.

18. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps  
of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;  
pre-tensioning the plate elements;  
laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 3 on the stack so that the  
recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate  
elements;  
offsetting the pretension.

19. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps  
of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;  
pre-tensioning the plate elements;  
laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 4 on the stack so that the  
recesses and/or the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate  
elements;  
offsetting the pretension.

20. (currently amended) A method for producing a fuel cell stack, comprising the steps  
of:

arranging plate elements in a stack arrangement;

pre-tensioning the plate elements;

laterally attaching frame elements according to claim 5 on the stack so that ~~the~~  
~~recesses and/or~~ the perforations of the frame elements receive ribs of the plate  
elements;

offsetting the pretension.

21. (new) A frame element according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of  
recesses for receiving ribs of plate elements arranged to form a stack.